

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2515

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez

February 19, 2010

An act to add Section 116336 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to local government drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2515, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Local government: environmental health departments.

Existing law authorizes local government agencies, in conjunction with other public entities, to organize and operate local public health services within their jurisdictional areas. These services may include implementing projects and policies pertaining to water conservation and water quality.

This bill would make ~~several~~ findings and declarations relating to the groundwater contamination in the Coachella Valley. The bill would ~~express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that clarifies the authority of the local environmental health department in Riverside County with respect to water delivery, until the department develops point-of-entry and point-of-use regulations as specified, allow the local environmental health department of Riverside County to authorize the use of point-of-entry or point-of-use treatment for community water systems serving residents of that county that are experiencing arsenic contamination at a level that exceeds the level allowed by the department's primary drinking water standards.~~

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for Riverside County.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. ~~(a)~~—The Legislature finds and declares both of
2 the following:

3 ~~(1)~~

4 ~~(a)~~ The arsenic contamination—~~ground water~~ groundwater
5 problem in the southeastern Coachella Valley in Riverside County
6 is largely naturally occurring and is getting progressively worse.

7 ~~(2)~~

8 ~~(b)~~ There are many limitations to providing the small,
9 unincorporated communities in the Coachella Valley access to
10 safe drinking water.

11 ~~(b)~~ It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that
12 clarifies the authority of the local environmental health department
13 in Riverside County in order to ensure potable water delivery to
14 residents of community water systems contaminated with arsenic.

15 SEC. 2. Section 116336 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
16 to read:

17 116336. In addition to other actions allowed or required by
18 this chapter and until the department develops point-of-entry and
19 point-of-use regulations pursuant to Section 116380, the local
20 environmental health department of Riverside County may
21 authorize the use of point-of-entry or point-of-use treatment for
22 community water systems serving residents of that county that are
23 experiencing arsenic contamination at a level that exceeds the
24 level allowed by the department's primary drinking water
25 standards.

26 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
27 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
28 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
29 Constitution because of the unique conditions affecting the safety
30 of the drinking water in Riverside County.